

And, as I said before, when USTTA closed its doors on April 15, U.S. tourism promotion efforts plummeted to zero.

It's time to turn this situation around.

We're losing jobs.

We lost 177,000 jobs in the past 3 years to countries who are willing to promote tourism.

H.R. 2579 is the blueprint we need to increase our market share and save those jobs.

This 226 Member bipartisan bill will establish a ground-breaking cooperative effort between the tourism industry and the U.S. Government to promote of international travel to the United States.

This plan allows the United States to compete globally for tourism dollars against countries like Canada, Germany, Spain, and Australia.

Even small countries like Malaysia and Tunisia have been spending more than the United States year after year.

In the next 5 years, there will be an increase of some 50 million travelers worldwide.

This could mean tens of thousands of new jobs for American workers. But not if we in Congress don't have the foresight to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity.

That is precisely why, as chairman of the 304-member Travel and Tourism Caucus—the largest caucus in Congress, I introduced the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act.

It's time to take a bold new approach to our economic future.

Rather than creating another government-run program, this bill designs a partnership between the tourism industry and the public sector to devise and carry out a more effective marketing plan.

H.R. 2579 is vital to the United States.

This is a job-creating bill.

All over the world, and particularly in the United States, travel and tourism is the predominant industry for the jobs our people need.

With all this potential, the United States is losing its market share of travel and tourism in a growing market.

With one out of every nine American workers employed by travel and tourism, we can't afford not to take action.

I urge you to join the 226 Members who have already co-sponsored the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act.

Join us and get involved in the blockbuster industry of the 1990's and the 21st Century.

THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM PARTNERSHIP ACT  
OF 1995

(By Congressman Toby Roth)

FACTSHEET

Implements a central recommendation of the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism.

Forms a "public-private partnership" between the travel/tourism industry and the federal government to strengthen the promotion of international travel to the U.S.

Establishes a 36-member National Tourism Board (75% private sector)—to advise the President and Congress on policies to improve the competitiveness of the U.S. travel and tourism industry in global markets; appointed by the President with the advice of the travel and tourism industry

Establishes a National Tourism Organization as a not-for-profit corporation under federal charter—to implement the tourism promotion strategy developed by the national Tourism Board; to develop and operate a marketing plan in partnership with U.S. travel and tourism firms to increase the

U.S. market share of the world travel market; governed by a 45-member board of directors, reflecting the breadth of the travel and tourism industry; board of directors develops a plan for a long-term financing; interim funding from industry; data and staff resources provided by federal government.

Requires federal agencies and U.S.C. overseas missions to cooperate in implementing promotion strategy developed by National Tourism Board.

#### THE RETIREMENT OF DEXTER MAYOR WILLIS CONNER

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to this country's attention the retirement of a civic servant in my southeast Missouri congressional district. The Honorable Mayor Willis Conner of Dexter, MO, will be turning over his gavel on May 6, 1996.

A reason I feel compelled to mention Mayor Conner's retirement is that his life embodies the very meaning of community service. When he does step down, he will have served the city of Dexter as its chief elected officer for 30 straight years. All told, he has served our southeast Missouri region for nearly half this century—48 years to be exact including Democrat committeeman, Liberty Township collector, Stoddard County public administrator, and city of Dexter Ward 1 alderman. In fact, Mayor Conner was recently named this year's recipient of the Missouri Municipal League's [MML] highest honor. It named him the State's current or former municipal official who has made outstanding contributions and leadership to the MML.

In a position that isn't supposed to be a full-time job, Mayor Conner has always faithfully and diligently served his community while also delicately balancing his needs at home and at his paid occupation in real estate and insurance.

As the Eighth District's Congressman, I have had the personal privilege and high honor of working with Mayor Conner on a number of initiatives over the years. One of the most notable is the four-laning of Highway 60 which provides an East-West link through the southern part of the State. Mayor Conner joined me as a visionary who could see the direct benefits of improving our region's transportation infrastructure. He well understood that once we improved our roads and bridges more folks, more businesses, and more industries would be attracted to our region. Mayor Conner is one of those civic leaders who steadfastly supported important efforts such as the Highway 60 project to directly link Dexter, Stoddard County, and southeast Missouri to other reaches in the United States and the globe. From day one, Mayor Conner has helped to improve the quality of life for folks today and in generations to come.

As I close, I again want to bring to the rest of America's attention how impressive and remarkable Mayor Conner is as a person and as a pillar of is community. Thirty years in any job, elected or unelected, is a Herculean undertaking, let alone nearly a half-century of public service. The city of Dexter, Stoddard County, and the State of Missouri will certainly

miss his leadership as Mayor; however, I truly believe, even in his so-called retirement, Mayor Conner will still be active and provide guidance, strength, and energy to overcome future hurdles. I am proud and honored to say thank you to Mayor Conner on behalf of his constituents, all Missourians, and our great country in general.

#### ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, an environmental organization concerned with cleaning up and preserving Maryland's greatest environmental treasure, the Chesapeake Bay.

It was most appropriate that on Monday, Earth Day, we turned our attention to the fine job done by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The Bay is a national resource that has a profound effect on much of the east coast. Its 64,000-square mile drainage basin—from the Finger Lakes in New York to the Ports of Baltimore and Hampton Roads—provides millions of us with food, energy, recreation, and water.

Since its inception in 1971, the alliance has been dedicated to creating a healthier, cleaner Bay. It has proven equal to the task. The alliance's nonadversarial approach has enabled it to work with a wide range of people for a better Bay. Over the years, the alliance has successfully rallied support from the business community, citizens groups, environmentalists, industry, scientists, farmers, sports enthusiasts, and others to preserve and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The alliance has accomplished its mission by establishing several important programs. The Alliance's Public Policy Program builds consensus on issues that directly affect the Bay. The Information Services Program provides unbiased information about issues. The Watershed Restoration Program gets people involved in hands-on habitat restoration work.

I urge my colleagues to acknowledge the fine work of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and to commit themselves to preserving the important programs that are so vital to the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

#### HONORING THE MIDWAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Midway Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming